

What's So Great About the Great Commission?



- ❖ The Great Commission is the heartbeat of God.
 - *"The Lord God called to the man and asked him, "Where are you?"" (Gen. 3:9, GWORD)*
 - God seeking humanity becomes the theme of the whole Bible.
 - *"Indeed, the Son of Man has come to seek and to save people who are lost."* (Luke 19:10, GWORD)
 - People experience "lostness" in different ways. God's "finds" people in all sorts of conditions of "lostness". The Great Commission provides God's amazing solution to humanity's problems. God's salvation is an answer to life's crises.
 - Futility...purpose.
 - Resignation...hope.
 - Decay...restoration.
 - Conflict...reconciliation.
 - Self-centeredness...love.
 - Wilfulness...willingness.
 - War...peace.
 - *"When Jesus came near, he spoke to them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So wherever you go, make disciples of all nations: Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do everything I have commanded you. "And remember that I am always with you until the end of time.""* (Matt. 28:18-20, GWORD)
 - God has given us the greatest authority possible to share his message. No government, police force, or university official has the authority to oppose God's message.
 - Mere salvation was never God's "end game" for us.
 - The Great Commission is about making disciples of Jesus.
- ❖ God made you his partner.
 - *"We are God's coworkers..." (1 Cor. 3:9, GWORD)*
 - What's God's part in the partnership? _____

 - What's our part in the partnership? _____

 - *"...but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;" (1 Pet. 3:15, NRSV)*

- Sanctify: "set apart." Make a continuous commitment of your will to serve Jesus and make his will your will.
- This verse implies that in the normal course of life that other people will notice something special about you. Your hopeful, positive attitude will create curiosity. Be prepared to give a response that points to Jesus. We're not talking about a "canned" slogan; rather be prepared to share a brief story that makes clear what Jesus means to you. Make sure you don't "over-share" in a way that kills their curiosity. Just share enough to clearly point to Jesus.

❖ Mini-study: God commissioned us with a privilege and a responsibility.

○ *" <Then Jesus said,> "I am the true vine, and my Father takes care of the vineyard. He removes every one of my branches that doesn't produce fruit. He also prunes every branch that does produce fruit to make it produce more fruit. "You are already clean because of what I have told you. Live in me, and I will live in you. A branch cannot produce any fruit by itself. It has to stay attached to the vine. In the same way, you cannot produce fruit unless you live in me. "I am the vine. You are the branches. Those who live in me while I live in them will produce a lot of fruit. But you can't produce anything without me. Whoever doesn't live in me is thrown away like a branch and dries up. Branches like this are gathered, thrown into a fire, and burned. If you live in me and what I say lives in you, then ask for anything you want, and it will be yours. You give glory to my Father when you produce a lot of fruit and therefore show that you are my disciples." (John 15:1-8, GWORD)*

- Who is the vine? _____
- Who are the branches? _____
- "Cleaning " the vine is another word for pruning it. Who prunes the vine and why? _____
- What is the "destiny" of the vine? _____
- What does "fruit" mean in this context? _____
- What does it mean to "stay attached to the vine"? _____

- What happens to branches that don't stay attached to the vine? _____

- What are we promised if we stay attached to the vine? _____

- What will you change in your life to stay attached to the vine?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____